

DRAFT

The Honorable Michael B. Seyb
Mayor
Pretty Prairie
119 W Main
P.O. Box 68
Pretty Prairie, KS 67570-0068

Dear Mayor Seyb:

I'm writing to call your attention to the matter of the drinking water in the town of Pretty Prairie. As I'm sure you are aware, for a period of over XXX years, the town's drinking water has exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for nitrates. Based on monitoring data that the water system has provided to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, it appears that the nitrate level in your drinking water is continuing to increase.

Given our common interest in protecting the health of the citizens of Pretty Prairie, the EPA wishes to begin discussions with you to find and implement a permanent solution to address the nitrates in your town's drinking water.

We understand that Pretty Prairie has made a number of attempts at working with both the EPA and the KDHE to address this important water quality issue in the past. We must emphasize, however, that the approach of using bottled water as a permanent solution to address nitrates in drinking water consumed by infants and pregnant/nursing mothers, is inconsistent with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Because the nitrate level in your water continues to increase, the risk to individuals exposed to this acute contaminant also increases.

We are unaware of any specific actions that the town has initiated over the past several years to abate the nitrates in its drinking water. If the town has taken any actions or is planning to take any actions to reduce nitrate levels in its drinking water to meet EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L, please advise EPA of those actions. EPA's goal is to ensure that the town takes action. Otherwise, we would appreciate the opportunity to open discussions with you on this matter. Our goal would be to devise an Administrative Order on Consent, under the terms of the Safe Drinking Water Act, that would specify an approach within a reasonable and time frame to by which actions to address the nitrate contamination in its your water would be implemented. In order to ensure that such actions come to pass, we believe that the town should enter into an enforceable agreement with either the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, or the EPA.

The EPA would like to meet with you by WHEN to discuss this matter. It is our intention to invite representatives of the KDHE to participate in any such meeting. Please contact me at (913) 551-7xxx if you have any questions, and so that we can make meeting arrangements.

Karl? Karen?